

Chapter 14

2005 BSAI Other Rockfish (Executive Summary)

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14.0 Introduction

For 2006, BSAI Other rockfish have been moved to a biennial stock assessment to coincide with new survey data. On alternate (odd) years we will present an executive summary in this format. In this document, we update fishery information on Other rockfish in the BSAI, and refer the reader to the full BSAI Other rockfish assessment (<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/docs/2004/BSAIorock.pdf>). The next full assessment will occur in 2006. Total catch of Other rockfish for 2004 and 2005 have been included (Table 14.1).

14.1 Summary of Major Changes

There are no changes to ABC or OFL recommendations from last year's assessment. We present the author's recommendations, and review last year's specifications, which are also this year's proposed specifications and area apportionments. The other rockfish complex is assessed at the tier 5 level, because it has a reasonable estimate of biomass and natural mortality. The BSAI biomass estimate is calculated by adding the average biomass (1991-2004 surveys) of the AI (11,242 mt) and SBS (1,950 t) regions with the average EBS slope survey (1991, 2002-2004) estimate (13,456 mt). ABC for Other rockfish is split for the EBS and AI, for calculation of **recommended AI ABC** $((0.75 \times 0.07) \times 15,406 \text{ mt})$ **809 mt**, and for **the recommended EBS ABC** $((0.75 \times 0.07) \times 11,242 \text{ mt})$ **590 mt**. For the calculation of the **recommended BSAI OFL** $(M \times 26,649)$ **1,865 mt**.

Other rockfish complex:

Region	M	Exploitable biomass (mt)	ABC (mt)	OFL (mt)
BSAI	0.07	26,649		1,865
EBS		15,406	809	
AI		11,242	590	

14.2 Responses to SSC Comments

Comment:

During the December 2004 Council meeting the SSC commented on the contribution of older females to stock productivity... *the SSC requests that the SAFE authors examine the consequences for rockfish management in both the BSAI and GOA if it is true that older females have a disproportionate large contribution to stock productivity, and are also disproportionately harvested due to their size. We request that this type of management strategy evaluation be done for those species for which loss of older females is most prevalent or suspected. We also request that an evaluation of the actual degree of loss of older aged females be provided, including an evaluation of how to adjust for early fishery data where there may have been intense fishing prior to historic age collections. We encourage comparison of BSAI and GOA results.*

Response:

Currently, there is no age information for those rockfish species in the Other rockfish complex. Therefore, at this time, there is no information to evaluate the degree of loss of older aged females in any of these populations. The effect of maternal age on effective reproductive output is examined for POP in BSAI POP SAFE chapter, as this is the species for which the most data exists.

Comment:

The authors developed a Schaefer surplus production model and additionally provide separate tier 5 calculation for shortspine thornyheads. The authors provided tier 6 calculation for the remaining species; however, the SSC agrees with the Plan team that the biomass estimates for the remaining rockfish are unreliable. Therefore, we do not agree to splitting out SST from other rockfish in specifying ABCs, and recommend that the ABC and OFL be set for the entire “other rockfish” complex, with the OFL being set for the entire BSAI, and ABCs apportioned geographically.

Response:

The Other rockfish executive summary for 2006 reflects the ABC and OFL's for the entire Other rockfish complex. In 2006 the Other rockfish full assessment will be for the entire complex.

Table 14.1.--Summary of catches (mt) of other rockfish in the eastern Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands regions. Source: NMFS/AK regional website and catch accounting system.

	<u>Eastern Bering Sea</u>					<u>Aleutian Islands</u>					<u>BSAI</u>
	<u>Domestic</u>					<u>Domestic</u>					<u>OFL</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>For.</u>	<u>JV</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>ABC</u>	<u>For.</u>	<u>JV</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>ABC</u>	
1977*	112	--	--	112		700	--	--	700		
1978*	941	--	--	941		212	--	--	212		
1979*	759	--	--	759		1,039	--	--	1,039		
1980	456	3	--	459		420	--	--	420		
1981	331	--	25	356		328	--	--	328		
1982	262	11	3	276		2,114	--	--	2,114		
1983	212	8	--	220		1,041	4	--	1,045		
1984	121	8	47	176		42	14	--	56		
1985	33	3	56	92		2	14	83	99		
1986	4	12	86	102		Tr	15	154	169		
1987	3	4	467	474		0	6	141	147		
1988	0	8	333	341		0	68	210	278		
1989	0	4	188	192		0	0	481	481		
1990	0	0	418	418		0	0	858	858		
1991	0	0	422	422		0	0	343	343		
1992	0	0	600	600		0	0	664	664		
1993	0	0	192	192		0	0	496	496		
1994	0	0	133	133		0	0	292	292		
1995	0	0	288	288		0	0	219	219		
1996	0	0	170	170		0	0	282	282		
1997	0	0	163	163		0	0	305	305		
1998	0	0	188	188		0	0	364	364		
1999	0	0	135	135		0	0	631	631		
2000	0	0	232	232	369	0	0	563	563	685	1,405
2001	0	0	295	295	361	0	0	592	592	676	1,383
2002	0	0	398	398	361	0	0	518	518	676	1,383
2003	0	0	329	329	960	0	0	411	411	634	2,126
2004	0	0	317	317	960	0	0	337	337	634	2,126
2005§	0	0	173	173	809	0	0	274	274	590	1,865

* These biomass estimates were revised (2001) to show the catch of those species currently in the other rockfish category.

§ Estimated removals through October 15th, 2005.

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